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Title: Need to provide constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes to strengthen existing safeguards for Backward Classes and to take additional measures to promote their welfare.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (KARIMNAGAR): There is a need to give Constitutional Status to National Commission for Backward Classes. As the House is well aware that OBCs constitute more than 50 per cent of our population. On the other hand, it is also clear that OBCs are still lagging behind in getting Government jobs and in getting other opportunities particularly in PSUs to have 27% reservation policy implementation. Recently i.e. in August, 2012, a Parliamentary panel has also recommended amendments in Constitution to empower the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), observing that OBCs are still languishing behind other sections of society. The Parliamentary Committee for welfare of OBCs in its report on "Measures for strengthening and giving constitutional status for National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)" has also noted that the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has not been able to discharge its duties for the OBCs in the present circumstances. The Parliamentary Committee also recommended that Article 338 (10) should be deleted and a new Article 338B should be inserted to achieve the purpose. The constitutional amendment should also include existing powers of NCBC under prevailing NCBC Act. To provide justice to OBCs at all levels, there is a dire need to amend the Indian Constitution and the NCBC Act appropriately for granting NCBC the constitutional status and conferring it with identical powers as given to NCSC and NCST to enable the NCBC to discharge its duties effectively. As, the OBCs have been lagging behind in their pursuit of education since independence, they are often poorly represented in government jobs and white-collar occupations in general. Immediate attention needs to be given to strengthen the existing safeguards and adopting new measures to promote their welfare to come up in the society at par with other communities.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister, through the Chair, to kindly intervene in the matter to provide justice to OBCs from educational levels to employment levels by giving a Constitutional Status to National Commission for Backward Classes to discharge its duties more effectively so that the fruits will be reached to the OBCs all over the country.